

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 OPIC-03 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 AID-05 /039 W

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R 061703Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8244

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4293

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CFED, IV

SUBJECT: TAW TRANSFERS

REF: (A) BAMAKO 1517, (B) ABIDJAN 3586, (C) ABIDJAN 4071

1. REFS B AND C REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION TO
ILLUSTRATE HOW ABIDJAN RESOLVED PROBLEM OF TAW TRANSFERS
TO EMBASSY.

2. FYI: SETH DEI WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY ABIDJAN AND DEI
MADE SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS TO EMBASSY CONCERNING
LEGALITY OF TRANSFERS PRIOR TO LITIGATION WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY.
CLEAR FROM RESULTING DEVELOPMENTS ABIDJAN THAT DEI'S
MAIN POINT, I.E., THAT TRANSFERS TO EMBASSY ACCOUNTS
WERE ILLEGAL, HAS BEEN FOUND INCORRECT IN NUMBER OF
FRANCOPHONE CAPITALS INCLUDING LOME, YAOUNDE, AND
ABIDJAN. RECOGNIZE BAMAKO MAY BE SPECIAL CASE GIVEN
EXCEPTIONAL EXCHANGE CONTROL REGULATIONS BUT PERHAPS THIS
INFO WILL ASSIST CHARGE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CENTRAL BANK.

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3. DEI, AFTER SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS IN ABIDJAN, MADE SEVERAL MISREPRESENTATIONS OF STATEMENTS BY EMBOFFS IN LITIGATION NOW PENDING. SUGGEST THAT BAMAKO BE VERY CAREFUL IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEI.

4. TAW IS STILL OPERATING IN IVORY COAST AND DEI HAS MADE CLEAR TO EMBOFFS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT FIRM IN WEST AFRICA WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS LONG AS IT CAN MEET LOCAL OVERHEAD COST. DEI HAS STATED THAT POTENTIAL BANKRUPTCY OF TAW US WILL NOT CLOSE WEST AFRICAN OPERATIONS BUT MERELY FORCE TAW TO RESTRICT ACTIVITIES TO ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES. HE HAS NOS INDICATED WHETHER OPERATIONS WILL BE CONTINUED IN MALI. END FYI.
SMITH

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